

Delaware Commission on Indian Heritage and Culture

MEETING MINUTES for Friday, October 13, 2017 meeting:

Chairperson Palash Gupta called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. In addition to Palash Gupta, all the other Commissioners were in attendance:

Viren Bhatia

Jay Patel

Ashwin Patel

Dr. Arun Malhotra

Pooja Dsouza

Emilie Ninan

Anand Swaminathan

Priya Dixit-Patel

Agenda:

- I. Introduction of Commissioner
- II. Business Cards/Website/Letterhead
- III. Commission Activities
- IV. Future Meeting Dates

V. Other Business

VI. Adjourn

Here are the meeting notes for each Agenda item:

- I. Priya Dixit-Patel, a family physician for Christiana Care in Smyrna, DE, who had been unable to attend the meeting in September, introduced herself to the other Commissioners.
- II. Business Cards were handed out to each commissioner. All bios were submitted for the website. Will get update on website and letterhead next month.
- III. Commission Activities: The Committee discussed various inaugural and future activities including:
 - a. Formal inaugural event with fmr US Ambassador to India Rich Verma and Indian Ambassador to U.S. Arun Singh. An event in 1st quarter of 2018 is more likely than a 2017 4th quarter event. The Glasgow Executive Hall was suggested as a venue. Event would be ticketed with goal of 200 guests and invitations to elected officials.
 - b. Diwali functions were discussed but there seem to be enough other organizations hosting events in 2017. Tabled discussion for possible event in 2018.
 - c. Annual gala around Holi in Spring 2018. Weekend of events could include a color run.
 - d. Interfaith event to highlight diversity of religions/regions/languages in India. Community service event collecting food/clothing and donating to south Asian or other community organization
 - e. Discussion about how commission can help promote Delaware Businesses in India has been tabled for next meeting
 - f. Emilie will ask Sen. Coons office to extend invitation to Indian Embassy; Pooja will contact DE Dept of Child Services to assess community needs

- IV. Next meeting will be November 16th from 1-2pm at Carvel State Building, 4th Floor Conference Room. A couple people will need to dial in by phone. David will post public notice as needed.

- V. Other Business: Added Priya to letterhead information (see below). Review minutes and approve at next meeting.

- VI. Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.